



REPLY REFER TO:

# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Keweenaw National Historical Park  
25970 Red Jacket Road  
Calumet, MI 49913

1.A.1

Dear Copper Country Educators,

It is once again time to register your school's team for the High School Copper Country Local History Smackdown. This year, we are especially pleased to announce that the winning team will split \$1000 in scholarship funds provided by the Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission.

### **What is the Smackdown?**

The Smackdown is a test of knowledge that is similar in format to a spelling bee. Teams of up to four students are asked short answer questions about local history, geography and geology. The questions increase in difficulty as the rounds progress.

This year, the Smackdown will take place at the historic *Calumet Theatre*, where the teams will appear on the same stage that showcased the talent of yesteryear, on *Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm*.

### **Who can participate?**

Teams of up to four students from Houghton, Keweenaw, Ontonagon and Baraga Counties are welcome to compete. Schools are welcome to send more than one team. Family, friends and other well-wishers are welcome to come and watch and to cheer for their teams.

### **How should my school's teams prepare?**

Begin by completing the entry form and returning it to the park in plenty of time to assure your spot on stage. All registration forms must be received by *April 6*.

Preparation for the Smackdown can be as formal as organized coaching by a teacher or parent after school, or as informal as students studying on their own time. All the materials needed for preparation have been provided free of charge to school libraries in past years. If you have questions about materials, or if this is your first year participating in the Smackdown, please feel free to contact the park for information.

### **How do students benefit from the Smackdown?**

Students who devote time preparing for and participating in the Smackdown learn about local history, geology and geography. Even if your school's team does not win, participation in such events is likely to result in a range of benefits:

- **Reinforced learning:** The questions are reviewed to ensure their alignment with Michigan and National History Standards. This learning process is likely to enhance memory and allow students to develop better learning skills, which can be highly beneficial in a number of settings.
- **Increased cognitive skills:** Events like the Smackdown allow students to develop a range of cognitive skills including the ability to handle pressure, and to think clearly in stressful situations.

- **Confidence:** Events such as the Smackdown can boost a student's confidence level. Participation in the game helps them develop the confidence they need to speak in public; to calmly accept their mistakes and move on; to work as a team, and to enjoy the applause earned through the demonstration of their skill.
- **Enjoyment:** Like all games, the Smackdown is dedicated not only to learning but to fun for all.
- **School Pride:** Students who may not have the aptitude to bring home an athletic award for their school have the opportunity to become part of a school team and demonstrate their own school pride.
- **Prizes and other mementos:** Nobody goes home empty handed. Students all receive a variety of items just for participating, and prizes up to and including scholarship funds for the winning team.

I sincerely hope you will register a team for the Smackdown this year. The National Park Service is dedicated to providing opportunities such as this one, for students to learn more about their history in a real-world context.

I hope to see you and your teams at the High School Local History Smackdown!

Sincerely,



Wyndeth Davis

Superintendent, Keweenaw National Historical Park